

At his Rancho de los Quiotes, Leo Carrillo created a retreat reminiscent of the ranchos of his childhood and his Spanish heritage. Leo fondly remembered peacocks wandering his tio's, or uncle's, ranch, so he started his peafowl collection with just six birds in 1937. The descendants of those original birds are the ones you see today.

The peafowl are feral and are able to migrate freely throughout Carrillo Ranch and the greater Rancho Carrillo community. The City of Carlsbad does not



own or keep the peafowl; rather, we share the park with them.

Peafowl have long been enjoyed as an ornamental bird. Some Ranch visitors come just to see the beautiful peafowl, not for the rich history or beautifully landscaped grounds. And from his writings, Leo Carrillo would have liked that!

The peafowl are accustomed to people, but are not pets. Please do not, touch, chase, or harass them. Thank you for not feeding the peafowl.



“ I love the sight of the peacocks...the males spreading their tremendous feathered tails with the springtime urge and strutting for the benefit of the females who sometimes don't pay much attention. The peacocks fancy they are glamour boys, and are stuck on themselves. I have even put out mirrors in the springtime so they could admire their own images, and this seemed to help satisfy their vanity. ”

– Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love*

Once part of a 1,700 acre working rancho and home to actor Leo Carrillo and his family, the City of Carlsbad stabilized, preserved and restored many of the buildings on this 27-acre parcel.

Leo Carrillo Ranch is a registered local and California Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

6200 Flying LC Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92009

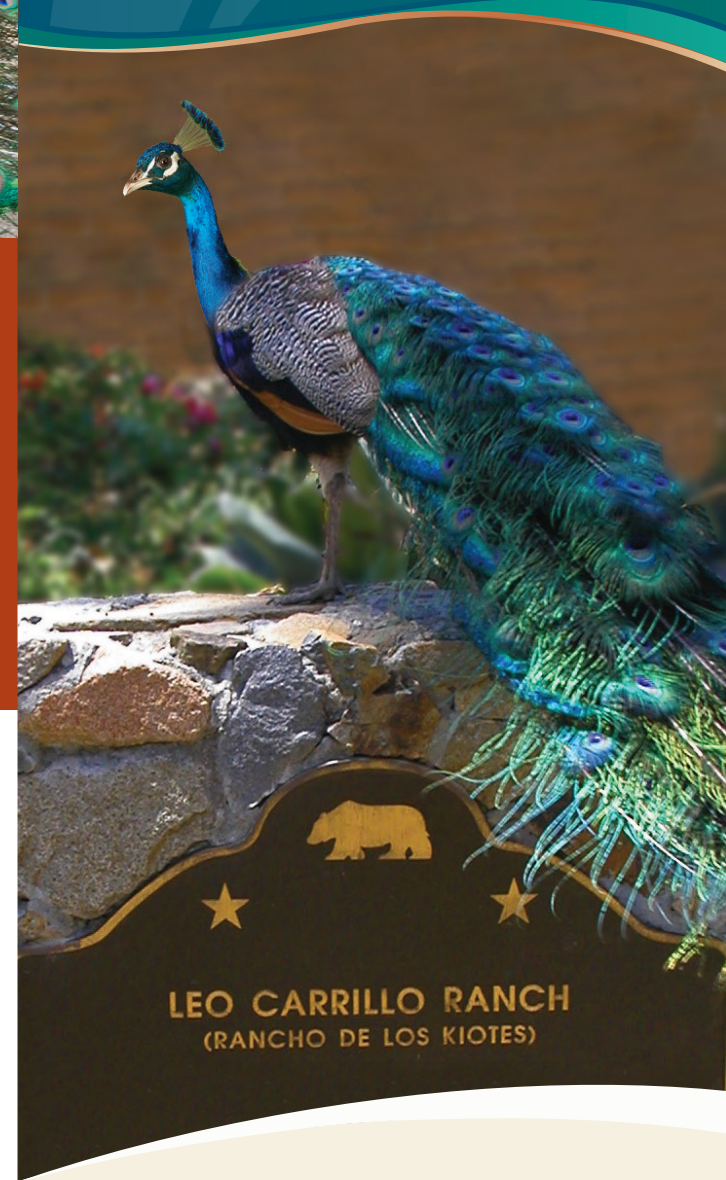
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Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

The Peafowl

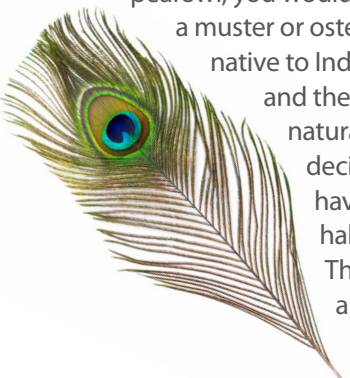




A Little Peafowl History

For thousands of years, peacocks have been prized and distributed throughout the world as ornamental birds. It is believed that it was the Phoenicians who first transported peafowl from their native habitat, presenting them to the pharaohs of Egypt. Alexander the Great is credited with bringing them to Greece. Romans carried them throughout their extensive empire. By the 14th Century, peafowl existed in many parts of Europe, including France, Germany and England. They were often a symbol of wealth and prestige.

Although commonly called peacocks, the proper term for these birds is peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*). Peacocks are the colorful iridescent blue males, and the more neutral toned females are peahens. Peafowl are the largest of the family of birds that includes pheasants, turkeys, and chickens (Phasianidae). If you were referring to a group of peafowl, you would not call it a flock, but a muster or ostentation. Peafowl are native to India, Ceylon, Southeast Asia, and the Congo. Despite their natural habitat being primarily deciduous rainforest, they have adapted well to different habitats all over the world. The peafowl of Carrillo Ranch are of the Indian variety.



Peafowl Behaviors

Peacocks have a distinctive loud call usually heard during the mating season and when they are alarmed. It sounds like a cross between a cat's meow and a baby's cry. Males display their long feather train by raising it into the characteristic fan shape. This is a courting behavior; however, they seem to be proud to present this impressive display to anyone who will appreciate it.

Surprisingly, the peacock's long feather train does not interfere with its flight. The beautiful feathers of the male's fantail, looking like a hundred open eyes, are dropped every year after mating season, and they begin growing back a new set for the next year soon afterward. These birds do not pair up, and will mate with a number of partners during the season to ensure strong, healthy offspring.

Peafowl are omnivorous; they eat seeds, fruit, and other vegetation, insects, reptiles (including snakes), and small mammals. In their native India peafowl are especially appreciated because they kill and eat venomous cobra snakes.



Reproduction and Predators



A peahen commonly lays between 6 and 15 eggs in a clutch and often has two clutches in a breeding season. The incubation

period for the eggs is about a month. Once the first eggs of a clutch hatch, the mother will often tend to these chicks and may neglect the rest of the eggs.

Eggs and young chicks are the most vulnerable to predation. Predators include coyotes, foxes, raccoons, weasels, rodents, domestic animals, hawks, owls, and other predatory birds. Generally, peafowl roost in trees keeping them relatively safe from predators, but the peahen builds her nest on the ground and stays with her chicks until they are old enough to fly into the trees. Usually this takes about 3 months, and during this time, even the mother peahen is more vulnerable.

The Lone White Peacock

During the 2004 breeding season, one of the peahens had a clutch that included one all white baby chick. This variation rarely occurs in peafowl and is due to a recessive gene responsible for pigmentation. The bird's plumage will remain all white through its entire life, and present a beautiful and distinctive courting display during mating season. Because this peacock is unique here at the ranch, he does seem to get more attention than the others!